

## REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present Application and are not amended. The specification has been amended to include an Abstract of the Disclosure. Support for the Abstract may be found in originally filed claim 1, as well as the abstract submitted with the PCT application on which this application depends. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

### Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure. Applicants apologize for inadvertently leaving out the abstract from the initial filing of the application. A new Abstract, conforming to the requirements for an Abstract of the Disclosure, has been supplied herewith. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's objection has been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

### Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner argues that while the claims define a “system,” the body of the claims lacks definite structure indicative of a physical apparatus. Office Action, page 4. Specifically, the Examiner finds the claims as a whole to be nothing more than “software elements.” Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites as follows (underlining added for emphasis):

An alarm system for an aircraft door comprising:  
a sensor for sensing when a door operating handle is about to be gripped by an operator,  
an aural alarm associated with the sensor and operable to sound when the sensor detects that the handle is about to be gripped, and  
means for automatically arming at least the sensor or the aural alarm when an emergency evacuation slide of the aircraft door is armed so as to be released if the air craft door is opened.

Applicants respectfully submit that the sensor, the aural alarm and the means for automatically arming are each hardware components and cannot be interpreted as being purely software. Referring to Fig. 3, a circuit diagram having a sensor, an aural alarm and a means for automatically arming is shown. The sensor of claim 1 is capable of sensing when a door operating handle is about to be gripped. Since gripping of a door operating handle is a physical action, software alone, without a physical sensor capable of detecting the gripping would be incapable of making this determination. Thus, the sensor must be a hardware component capable of detecting the described action. An example of the sensor is provided at page 7 of the specification as a pressure sensor. Further, the aural alarm is recited in claim 1 as being operable to sound in response to the detecting of the sensor. Software alone is not capable of sounding, but requires a physical object, such as a speaker, that can produce sound waves. Thus, the sensor and the aural alarm of claim 1 cannot be read to be purely software components. Finally, an example of the means for automatically arming provided in the specification is “a Reed switch 32 and ceramic magnet 38.” See pages 6-7 of the specification. Therefore, the means for automatically arming recited in claim 1 are also a physical component of the system.

Accordingly, because each of the elements recited in claim 1 includes at least one hardware element, the system as a whole cannot be considered purely software. Thus, independent claim 1 recites statutory subject matter. Dependent claims 2-28 are statutory based, at least in part, on their dependency from statutory independent claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 101 rejection are respectfully requested.

### **Conclusion**

Insofar as the Examiner's rejections were fully addressed, the instant application is in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowability of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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